



U.S. Embassy, Kazakhstan

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Warden Message: New Visa Rules for Kazakhstan

On March 1, 2010, The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan implemented new regulations concerning the issuance of visas. In a series of meetings in Astana and Washington, DC, Kazakhstani Government officials briefed U.S. State Department officers on the new visa rules. The following is a summary of these new rules based on the information provided to us by the Government of Kazakhstan. It is not yet clear to what degree these new regulations are being executed or enforced.

One of the most significant changes introduced by the new visa regulations is the prohibition on extending most categories of visas within Kazakhstan. Exceptions to this rule are student visas, visas for medical treatment, visas for permanent residents of Kazakhstan and work visas, which can be extended in Kazakhstan up to the expiration date of the holder's work permit, a separate document issued only in Kazakhstan. Furthermore, business visas can be extended domestically if the traveler is in Kazakhstan at the invitation of the Government of Kazakhstan, a diplomatic mission or international organization in Kazakhstan.

Business visas: The rules provide for business visas to be issued for a maximum validity of 12 months with multiple entries. An individual possessing a business visa can remain in Kazakhstan for up to 120 days, but can stay no more than a total of 120 days per year. In general, business visas cannot be extended within Kazakhstan, however, bearers of business visas who are in Kazakhstan at the invitation of the Government of Kazakhstan or a foreign mission in Kazakhstan may apply to extend their visas in Kazakhstan.

Religious/Missionary visas: The new rules create a new category for missionaries. Such visas are valid for a maximum of six months and are issued for 1, 2 and 3 entries. The bearer of a missionary visa can remain in Kazakhstan for up to six months. Missionary visas cannot be extended within Kazakhstan.

Tourist Visas: Tourist visas are valid for a maximum of 30 days. Bearers of tourist visas can remain in Kazakhstan for no more than 30 days. Tourist visas cannot be extended within Kazakhstan.

Private Visas: This category of visa is intended for foreigners who wish to visit family and friends in Kazakhstan, and for a few other

purposes of travel such as foreign citizens adopting children in Kazakhstan. Private visas can be issued for a maximum validity of 90 days with 1, 2 and 3 entries, however individuals who request validities greater than 30 days must obtain an invitation from a resident of Kazakhstan. Bearers of private visas can remain in Kazakhstan for up to 90 days, and cannot extend their visas in Kazakhstan.

Student Visas: Student visas are valid for 90 days with a single entry. Bearers of student visas can extend their visas for up to one year once they are present in Kazakhstan, but must reapply for visas outside of Kazakhstan for stays beyond 12 months.

Transit Visas: The new rules extend the validity of transit visas to 90 days with 1, 2 and 3 entries. Bearers of transit visas are authorized to stay in Kazakhstan for a maximum of 5 days.

For additional information concerning visas for foreigners and entry/exit requirements for Kazakhstan, please review the Country Specific Information for Kazakhstan, which the Consular Section updated on March 22, 2010. This document is located on the State Department's Consular Affairs website, www.travel.state.gov.

The U.S. Embassy urges American citizens in or traveling to Kazakhstan to register with the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan. Americans can register in person at the Consular Section or online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/>. Up-to-date information on security conditions as well as general information concerning Kazakhstan and the U.S. Embassy is also available on the Embassy's website: <http://kazakhstan.usembassy.gov>.

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